The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 6. NO. 47. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1917. WHOLE NO. 307.

"CONGRESS MUST CURB FEDERAL JUDICIARY"

—U. S. SENATOR OWEN.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 17.—By a vote of 32 to 15 the state senate has indorsed United States Senator Owen's resolution to curb federal judges who declare acts of congress unconstitutional.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 17.—"I have demanded that congress should exercise its plain, conceded, constitutional right and withdraw from the federal court the power to declare the acts of congress unconstitutional," said United States Senator Owen, in a public defense of his joint resolution which would prohibit federal judges invalidating acts of congress.

"The people are overwhelmingly opposed to the usurpation of power by the federal judiciary. The constitution speaks for itself. It puts the sovereign power in congress, the power to control the appellate jurisdiction of the courts to prevent the exercise of the judicial veto, if it is attempted. It has been attempted. It has been exercised, with the most reprehensible mischievous. It has become unendurable.

"When the United States supreme court declared the Missouri compromise act, passed by congress, unconstitutional and slavery a constitutional right, it took a war to settle the frightful error of this judicial usurpation.

"When the supreme court declared the income tax void and transferred the taxes from the wealth of the country, which is protected by the expenditure of such taxes, it disregarded the will of the people of the United States and of congress, and it took the people 16 years to correct it by a constitutional amendment at a cost of over $1,000,000,000.

"The people did not, by the constitution, put upon themselves any such straint whatsoever, and they are entirely normal.

"They did put a restraint upon their law-making representatives in congress; they made congress immediately responsible to themselves, requiring the house of representatives and one-third of the senate to be re-elected every two years, requiring the president to be re-elected by the people every four years. They did put the judiciary under the congress."

"TO SPEAK IS NOT LOITERING."

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 17.—Matt Neff, trade union official, has been found not guilty of "loitering" by Judge Kinkaid, who rules that "speaking of my kind cannot be considered as loitering."

This decision is the outcome of an attempt last summer to stop trade union agitation. Neff was arrested for talking from an automobile in front of the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company plant. Organizers of the Machinists' union was arrested on similar charges, but was acquitted. During the campaign the chief of police aided hostile manufacturers by attempting to run trade unionists out of the city.

POSTAL UNIONS UNITE.

Washington, Feb. 17.—As the result of a referendum vote the National Federation of Post Office Clerks and the National Federation of Railway Postal Clerks will amalgamate. The new organization will be known as the National Federation of Postal Employes. The first named union favored the plan by a vote of 43 to one and the railway clerks by a vote of six to one.

DEATHS IN KANSAS MINES.

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 17.—Last year there were 54 persons killed in the coal mines of this state. Of these 20 were killed last December at an explosion near Stone City. The state mine inspector reports that "coal dust is directly" as to the cause of this latter explosion.

RIGHTS OF MURDERERS ARE DENIED STRIKERS

Chicago, Feb. 17.—The rights accorded to murderers, is denied to honest working men and women on strike, says Victor Olander, secretary of the state federation of labor, in defending labor's demand for an anti-injunction statute in the state.

Writing in the Weekly News Letter, published by the state organization, Secretary Olander says:

"It is said, however, that because violence, sometimes occurs in strikes, injunctions are necessary to preserve the peace. Just what does that mean? The use of violence is a crime and when it is, in fact, a man commits murder, the law provides certain methods of preferring the charge against him, arresting him, providing him with counsel, a trial by an impartial jury, and according him certain rights which, in the best interests of justice, it has been found necessary to grant even the meanest criminal. It is hardly necessary to call attention to the fact that to deny these rights to men charged with crime would result in the execution of the innocent and thus in irreparable injustice. But when a working man goes on strike, and thus interferes with business, he is denied all of these rights. He can be arrested and thrown into jail, he can be denied bail, he can be denied a trial by jury, assuming, to punish him, not for the commission of laws or crimes forbidden, but for contempt of court. The rights accorded to the professional criminal are denied to honest working men and women on strike.

"When the court arrogates to itself the power to issue injunctions that interfere with the exercise of personal rights, it sets itself above the government and also above the law. The injunction process must be limited to the domain of property and property rights, the legitimate field, which, by the way, it has never left without specific authority of statutory law—except to attack working people on strike.

"The injunction process as used against working people on strike (it is thus used only in America) is an exercise of extremely dangerous arbitrary authority by judges—a government by persons and contrary to government by law.

"The workers of Illinois insist upon the abolition of personal government and the restoration of government by law. They demand equality before the law with all other citizens."

FAVOR STATE PRINTERY.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 17.—The senate has passed the bill to establish a printing and binding plant to be operated by the state department of education.

PICKETS ARRESTED; AWARDED DAMAGES

Indianapolis, Feb. 17.—The Iron Molders' union has established a record in industrial disputes by forcing a firm to pay damages for illegal arrest and malicious prosecution of its members who were doing peaceful picketing.

The Nordyke & Marmon company, iron founders, has paid the union $4000 and costs rather than appeal a decision against them in the lower courts.

Attorney Salem D. Clark, acting for the iron molders, based the suit upon the opinion of the Indiana state supreme court that peaceful picketing is legal.

Despite this opinion the Nordyke & Marmon company, backed by anti-union manufacturers, proceeded to interfere with the pickets.

The unionists were arrested on vagrancy charges, but were acquitted on the ground that their civil rights had been invaded. A damage suit was then started against the company for malicious prosecution and the lower court held for the unionists.

The company appealed the case, but on the day set for the hearing the Nordyke & Marmon attorneys offered to settle out of court, paying all costs and costs, which was accepted.

"The ending of this case," says Attorney Clark, "recognizes the rule of peaceful picketing to be a civil right under the laws of this state."

A "BONUS" IS CHARITY.

Lafayette, Ind., Feb. 17.—Some workers prefer to accept the charity of the "bonus" which is handed to them public charity, rather than force their employers see fit to let them in on the industrial share of the profits, too blind to see that any plan except raising wages is preferable to profit-sharing, says Secretary-Treasurer Conway of the Retail Clerks' International Protective association.

The "bonus" is not to be accepted with thankful humility by the workers in the place of a part of the wages they have rightly earned, the "bonus" is not a solution of the wage problem, neither does it blind the organized labor movement to the real purposes for which they are banded together.

"The individual is of less moment in the industrial world than the single drop of water in the vast ocean. Of little more significance are the various associated groups of individuals popularly known as 'clubs,' 'mutual aids' and others of a similar character."

The only hope for salespeople, says this trade union official, is association and combination under the banner of the trade union movement."

GOOD ADVICE FOR UNIONISTS.

Haskell, Tex., Feb. 17.—The Farm Educator, published in the interest of the Farmers' union, offers this suggestion which should be accepted by trade unionists:

"Brethren, guard the door of your organization well. Don't let the lukewarm farmers cross its threshold, and fully make up your minds that there are plenty of men and women outside of your own class who have the ability to handle and control the workings of the organization in detail, and it is only who may be trusted as leaders to guard and protect its destiny.

"We know, and we have proved to admit from sad experience, that our greatest enemies, the men who have done us the greatest trouble, and who have impeded the progress of the farmers' organization in the past, have been those on the inside of such organization and not those on the outside."

FAVORS "COMPANY" UNION.

New York, Feb. 17.—President Shonts of the Interborough Rapid Transit company opposes a portion of the no-strike plan urged by Chairman Straus, of the public service commission.

While the scheme is also opposed by certain labor leaders, Chairman Straus does not come from any desire for liberty for his employes. He favors collective bargaining, but not the trade union kind —rather the system employed by the mutual benefit association organized by the Interborough.

President Shonts says there is need for "insuring uninterrupted service pending investigation." That is another way of saying that he favors a system that will tie street car employes to their jobs.

INK WORKERS VICTIMIZED.

Cincinnati, Feb. 17.—The newly-formed union of printing ink workers is having trouble. Whenever these workers began discussing unionism the Queen City Printing Ink company raised wages and shortened hours. The employes were the first to join the union, however, and the company then discharged officers of the union. This action forced a strike and the ink workers are now appealing to fellow unionists in the printing trades to assist them in securing the right to organize without being victimized.

The Schwarm & Jacobus Printing Ink company has signed an agreement with the new union.

URGES CO-OPERATION.

Bayville, Ga., Feb. 17.—At a meeting of the Richmond County Farmers' union one of the speakers urged co-operation and organization, declaring organization would better their conditions and check tenant farming.

"You can't dodge the law of cause and effect," he said. "If you don't use your heads for yourselves you'll have to use your muscles for some one else."

FARMERS AND UNIONISTS UNITE.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 17.—Representatives of organized labor, the State Grange and the Farmers' union are to meet here to-day for a conference of personal rights. It sets itself above the government and also above the law. The injunction process must be limited to the domain of property and property rights, the legitimate field, which, by the way, it has never left without specific authority of statutory law—except to attack working people on strike.

"The injunction process as used against working people on strike (it is thus used only in America) is an exercise of extremely dangerous arbitrary authority by judges—a government by persons and contrary to government by law.

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FAVOR STATE PRINTERY.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 17.—The senate has passed the bill to establish a printing and binding plant to be operated by the state department of education.

Pan-American Workers Are Urged To Unite

Washington, Feb. 17.—The Pan-American Federation of Labor Conference Committee has issued a call to the workers of Latin America to join in the proposed movement to unite all wage workers of the western hemisphere.

This action is the result of resolutions adopted last year by the A. F. of L. convention, Baltimore.

Members of the conference committee who have signed the call are: Samuel Gompers, president American F. of L.; John Murray, secretary; Santiago Iglesias, representing the Porto Rico organization, and Luis Lozada, representing the Yucatan, Mexico, organized workers. The committee says:

"By means of correspondence with all the labor centers of the American continent, and through the daily, weekly and monthly publications of all the conference committee proposes to carry on an active propaganda for the establishment of practical, immediate benefits as well as the ideals of organized labor.

"As is well known, the capitalists of North America and some European countries are scattering millions and millions of dollars throughout Latin America, influencing concessions and business properties which are disposed of to them by Latin American politicians and corporations without taking into consideration the rights of the masses of the people, the masses of the people who, by these transactions, have their future endangered for decades and perhaps centuries.

"If the employers, the capitalists of Pan-America, thus unite for the protection of their common advantages, it becomes all the more evident that the wage earners of these countries must also unite for their common protection and betterment.

"It will be the duty of the Pan-American Federation of Labor to show to the world that its purpose is to permeate the western hemisphere with a humane influence. This influence will more truly represent the sentiments of the American people than the influence of all the corporations of the United States, and is in strong contrast with those capitalists who are eternally crying, 'Business, business,' and 'Dollars, dollars.'

"Above all things, the Pan-American Federation of Labor should stand as a guard on watch to protect the western hemisphere from being overrun by military domination from any quarter.

"The conference committee desires to impress upon its brother workers throughout Pan-America that in its opinion each national organization should be autonomous within the jurisdiction of its own country. The conference committee stands for the right of the workers of every American country to work out their own problems in accord with their ideals and highest conceptions.

"The working people of all our countries should give their first attention to securing the standards of life and work: Higher wages, shorter workdays, more safe and sanitary conditions in all places of employment, better homes, better surroundings, prohibition of child labor.

"Legislative enactments to achieve and maintain equal rights:

"The right of association, the right of free assemblage, the right of free speech, the right of free press, the right, singly or collectively, to withhold our labor power—the right to strike."

Latin-American labor organizations are asked to spread the suggested ideals of this conference by means of correspondence, by means of the press at their disposal, and through pamphlets.

SEAMEN'S LAW DILUTED SEA SAFETY SHATTERED

Washington, Feb. 17.—The language and standard of skill clauses of the seamen's act have been practically nullified by circular No. 26, issued by the federal department of commerce, says President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union in a protest to congress. The senate has ordered the protest printed as a senate document.

The circular instructs officials charged with the enforcement of the law that the language and standard of skill in seamen orders as may be normally given to members of the crew in each department of vessel in the course of the law; performance of their regular duties."

President Furuseth insists that the department of commerce has ignored the intent of congress which passed the language "in case of emergencies and not for normal conditions.

"The misunderstanding of an order given under normal conditions," he says, "could not be attended with consequences sufficiently serious to engage the attention of congress. Under emergency orders given immediately preceding a collision or during a collision, a fire, or in some other disaster where life is at stake and where every second is precious—then the inability of any member of the crew to understand orders as they come directly from the master or other officer, may mean the loss of many lives because of the act." it is stated.

President Furuseth predicts that if Secretary Redfield's interpretation of section 13 (the language test) of the seamen's act is allowed to stand, ship owners may cite court decisions to secure a limitation of liability in suits for damages because of loss of life and property at sea.

PRISON REFORM URGED.

Trenton, N. J., Feb. 17.—In a preliminary report on prison conditions in this state a committee has found many arraignments against the state prison. These include poor food; failure to observe educational requirements of state law; penalizing prisoners by lodgment in dungeon cells; vicious labor system, and failure to exercise prisoners in the open air.

It is stated that convict labor should not be abolished entirely until provision has been made for the full operation of the state-use system, and the employment of prisoners at the prison farm, on the state roads and on other state-use work, but with preference for the leasing over contract labor.

The commission declares that a prisoner suffering with tuberculosis, upon a sentence of two years or more, is virtually sentenced to death by disease.

"FRAME UP" COLLAPSES.

Toledo, Ohio, Feb. 17.—The charge of cable cutting against striking linemen has collapsed. The man who made the complaint, which implicated two strikers, has repudiated his first statement. He has shown that he was "doped up" with cocaine when he made the pain when he was grilled for several hours by detectives at the office of the Home Telephone Company. This concern disregarded several girls because of their activity in the Telephone Operators' union. The girls struck and the electrical workers did likewise.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN.

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 17.—Motormen and conductors employed by the subsidiary companies of the West Penn Traction company have induced these concerns to abandon all "bonus" propositions and increase wages 3 cents an hour until April 1, 1918. Awards, and until the expiration of the contract, the 22-cent rate will be increased to 25 cents an hour; 24 cents to 27 cents to 28 cents. Employes receiving 26, 28, 30, 32 and 33 cents will be paid an additional 3 cents an hour.

GARMENT WORKERS STRIKE.

Cincinnati, Feb. 17.—Over 1,000 operatives responded to the call of the Ladies' Garment Workers' union to suspend work because these employers refused to sign.

Union recognition, equal distribution of work, 50-hour week, wage increases and no work on New Year's, Christmas, Labor day and Fourth of July.

BOILER MAKERS STRIKE.

Dallas, Tex., Feb. 17.—Boiler makers employed by the Texas & Pacific railway have suspended work to enforce wage increases of 2 1-2 cents an hour, increase in apprentices and union recognition.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 17.—Typographical union No. 8 has signed a contract with newspaper publishers which increases wages $ per cent. About 60 workers will be benefited $2.50 a week.

INCREASES FOR CARPENTERS.

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APPRENTICE SYSTEM NEEDED IN INDUSTRY

Portland, Ore., Feb. 17.—Representative Callan has introduced a bill in the state legislature "to protect the apprentice in learning a trade." The purpose of the bill is to outlaw any regulation of the apprentice by trade unions.

In defense of the present system a writer in the Oregon Labor Press—Alvaro C. Shoemaker—says:

"If the boy were really given a chance to learn a trade, there would be little objection to this (Callan's) proposal. As a learner who really is given a chance to learn is more or less of a hindrance to the employer. It is when the boy is used in the performance of their regular duties."

As passed by the house the bill limited suffrage to those who could read and write and restricted membership in the senate to those paying taxes upon $1,000 worth of property and in the house to those paying taxes upon the amount of $500.

These qualifications would disfranchise three out of every four voters in the island and would place that government in complete control of, wealth-owning interests.

The trade union movement has been the one force that has stood for justice for the Porto Ricans and has insisted that rights accorded these people under Spanish dominion should not be taken from them by the government based on equality. The Porto Rico Free Federation of Labor has been supported in its demands by the A. F. of L., to which it is affiliated. Its president, Santiago Iglesias, has visited this country many times during the last several years in the interest of suffrage for himself and fellow workers.

PORTO RICO WEALTH TEST IS DEFEATED IN SENATE

Washington, Feb. 17.—Organized labor won its long fight for the removal of property qualifications in the organic law of Porto Rico when the senate struck from the Porto Rico bill these qualifications for members of the Porto Rican senate and house of representatives.

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OFFICIALS NOT INCLUDED IN "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAWS

New York, Feb. 17.—In opposing a "can't-strike" law, favored by Chairman Straus of the public service commission, President Gompers exposed the serf theory upon which the legislation rests by declaring that the right of public utilities officials to quit in a body is never questioned.

"President Shonts of the Interborough Rapid Transit company and big board of directors are public servants and are protected in their rights as public servants," said President Gompers, "but the men who render public services are not protected in their rights. The state and city assume to control and regulate the railroads, the operation of which is a great public convenience, but never has the thought come to the legislature to prevent directors from resigning, either individually or in a body, for any reason or for no reason. They simply believe that conductors cannot be deprived of their right to resign, either."

BRAY OF A "LAW" OBSERVER.

Troy, N. Y., Feb. 17.—The Troy Observer considers for "law and order," but in this patriotic work takes time to say:

"For the strike or fourth there is no law or at least more, professional agitators have been in this section and they are in jail for conspiring to create disorderly conditions at one or two of the plants in the vicinity. These people are certainly doing the employers no good, and their previous efforts, where they have met with success, have resulted in much suffering for the time. Many people believe that a good solution of the problem would be to have these men placed on the city farm and held if they returned to Troy again they would be given a bath in the river."

CEREAL STRIKE SETTLED.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 17.—The strike of cereal workers employed by the Quaker Oats company has been settled. They receive 25 cents an hour and go back to work without discrimination.

STATE CARPENTERS UNITE.

Helena, Mont., Feb. 17.—A state council of carpenters, representing about 8,000 workers, has been organized. Its purposes are: To amend the state-wide eight-hour day, minimum wage and female labor laws; to regulate conditions of employment and promote such legislation as is beneficial to workers.

WOULD FLOOD DETROIT.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 17.—The "help wanted" campaign of the local Manufacturers' association continues, despite the refusal of the unions to flood the city with employment. As a rule the applicant is told that if he comes to this city, "and is compelled" he may secure employment.

GAINS BY "MOVIE" OPERATORS.

Pittsburg, Pa., Feb. 17.—Moving Picture Operators' union No. 171 has signed a one-year agreement with Rowland & Clark. The concern controls a number of picture houses in this section and has granted organized labor for the first time.

'ROUND-ABOUT METHOD TO PROHIBIT STRIKES

Washington, Feb. 17.—Advocates of "can't-strike" legislation have confessed it is impossible to secure the passage of a law that specifically prohibits workers from quitting their employment.

The best that can be possibly secured is found in a bill reported by the senate committee on interstate commerce which does not prohibit strikes but makes extended notice to "threats" and "intimidations" where there is an interstate railroad strike.

In reporting the bill Senator Newlands, chairman of the committee, made the interesting statement that while the power of strike is the only weapon which labor has, he does not favor it with the views of his colleagues that this power should not be interfered with or suspended.

As reported, the bill provides that where a dispute arises that cannot be settled by the local board of mediation and conciliation the president shall appoint two additional members, representing the public and the railroads. A report shall be made by the board within three months. If a strike occurs it shall be a criminal offense for any one to "knowingly and willfully" use physical force or threats or intimidation to make him leave the employ of trains or the United States mail. This provision, on its face, should not be opposed by any law abiding citizen, but Senator Newlands, explaining the purposes of the bill, revealed the "African in the woodpile."

"The committee," he said, "also took up the bill to further prevent the protection by the federal government of trains operating in interstate commerce from the prevention of any restraint or hindrance of the operation of such trains. It has put in this bill which is reported a stringent provision making it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine or imprisonment, to hinder or to attempt in any way the operation of the mails on trains moving in interstate commerce."

OPPOSE CONTROLLED EDUCATION

Washington, Feb. 17.—While the senate was considering an appropriation bill, Senator Chamberlain again recorded his opposition to the Carnegie and Rockefeller foundations.

"Give me the education of the youth of this country," he said, "and the control of $100,000,000 or $200,000,000 for a period of years to use as I please and I venture the prediction that in two or three generations I can practically change the ideals of America.

"The people of this country want no tainted fortunes to accomplish their happiness.

"Without any reflection upon the men who are back of these foundations, who put money into them, no one man can influence the spirit of education in our public educational institutions in advocating principles contrary to the spirit of democracy.

"It is hostile not only to the spirit but to the best interests of free government that any one or group of men, outside of the public control, should have the power of the nation's life, should have any voice or influence in directing and shaping the ideals and the real purpose of our educational institutions."

DAMAGE AWARD APPEALED.

Bridgeport, Conn., Feb. 17.—Machinists' union has appealed to the state supreme court from the verdict of the superior court which awarded damages against its members of $5,000 to the Max Ams machine.

The decision is based on section 1296 of the General Statutes which provide that any person who shall threaten "or use any means calculated or intended" to abandon from doing any act which such person has a legal right to do, shall be fined or imprisoned.

Trade unionists are trying to have this law amended. They show that section 1296 would make the act of a unionist criminal if he dared to urge a non-strikebreaker, who has a legal right to work in a struck plant.

BOILER MAKERS ACTIVE.

Kansas City, Kan., Feb. 17.—Officers of the Brotherhood of Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders announce that four new charters have been issued in the past week—ship fitters at Philadelphia, Quincy, Mass., and Wilmington, Del., and boiler makers at Lima, Ohio, and the Northern railroad at Van Wert, Ohio.

Several new lodges were instituted during January, and the 50,000 mark will be reached before the end of February, it is predicted.

DEFEAT POSTAL INCREASE.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The senate has declined to raise second-class postal rates on newspapers and periodicals. Opponents of the increase showed that the present cost of printing paper has caused financial difficulties for thousands of publishers and that this educational force should not be further embarrassed by legislative action.

TO REGULATE JOB DEALERS.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 17.—Private employment agencies in this state will be subject to regulation at the hands of the state industrial commission if the house follows the lead of the senate in passing a bill introduced at the request of the Ohio Federation of Labor.

The bill provides for the licensing of agencies and the power to revoke licenses for any kind of a violation of the law.

WON'T OPPOSE PICKETING.

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 17.—The city council has refused to place on the spring election ballot a proposed anti-picketing ordinance submitted by the Employers' association. The ordinance would make it unlawful for any person or group of persons of any kind on the streets. The employers announce they will initiate the ordinance despite the council's action.

FIREMEN RAISE WAGES.

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 17.—Stationary Firemen's union No. 21 has signed a one-year agreement with the Ohio Valley Electric Railway. Wages are increased $5 a month.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN.

Coalgate, Okla., Feb. 17.—The Laundry Workers' union has gained wages 2½ cents a day. Improved working conditions are also included in the new contract.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 17.—Pressmen's union has raised wages $1.50 for the first year and $2 for the second year. Hours are reduced to seven a week will be paid during the remaining six months.

'FREE MEN WILL STRIKE REGARDLESS OF LAWS"

—PRESIDENT GOMPERS.

New York, Feb. 17.—A republic can only exist where men are free, declared President Gompers at a public hearing on a proposal by Oscar S. Straus, chairman of the public service commission, that strikes should be prohibited and that a wage board would settle disputes between street railroads and their employes.

"We will oppose the proposal step by step and will not yield one inch in opposing it during all its progress," said President Gompers. "We will fight it in the courts, and, if beaten there, we will exercise our God-given natural right, the right notwithstanding all we may make to lawbreakers, possibly, but you are not going to make us slaves.

"If the miners had not struck work and there had been such a wage board in Pennsylvania as you propose, the miners might have waited a century or two before getting what they did. If they had not struck, not one of them would have dared to do so unless, from horror, the tyranny and the brutality that had existed.

"The change in conditions in the needle industries of New York was accomplished by the strike and because the public was convinced any wage board that they could not pay more wages and that they could not make the necessary improvements which the strikes brought.

"I am not an advocate of strikes. I have done all in my power to, if we will work word to try and avert strikes. But after all, some people imagine that a strike is some sort of a picnic. Strikes are as a matter of fact, it is only in civilized countries that the right to strike occurs, other countries we find riots and revolution. I want to accentuate the contrast which this country has of the right of a difference between a violent suppression upon person and property on the one hand, and the right of a man to fold his arms and do nothing."

A. F. of L. Organizer Frayne opposed the Straus bill to prohibit strikes.

"You would not find jails enough to house the men," said this trade unionist.

CAN'T ESCAPE UNIONISM.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 17.—It is hinted that several Detroit cigar manufacturers have asked real estate men to secure options on land for them, as they contemplate moving to this city.

The reason for this change is a strike of several thousand cigar makers, who suspended work last June to enforce living conditions and a 44 hour week. These girls were unorganized when they struck, but have since been organized by the Cigar Makers' union. Several of them have been jailed under injunction proceedings. It is shown that the plants maintained in Detroit will be filled with the girls were taught special branches of the manufacturing trade. After they "graduated," they were given a "diploma" and entitled them to work under conditions made by the employers.

UNION PAYS BENEFITS.

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 17.—The Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America has paid death benefits during 1916. Disability benefits totaled $7,400 and old age benefits, $4,600. Death benefits are paid upon all members and averaged $477.50 each. Officers of this organization say that this record demonstrates the ability of trade unions to carry insurance that protects. For the past year 1,000 members died regardless of age and physical condition of applicants, the Amalgamated association has paid out $468,670.62. Of this amount, $70,000 death, disability and old age benefits in the sum of $468,670.62.

WOULD ELECT JUDGES.

Boston, Feb. 17.—At a joint meeting of the City clerk and the Boston Bar association Alfred H. Shrigley said that in time a constitutional convention "some successors should be made to the popular demand for the election of judges.

"The people," he said, "believe that if there is to be politics in judicial appointments and they as well have a hand in the appointments."

COAL MINERS WIN STRIKE.

Centralia, Wash., Feb. 17.—Coal miners employed by the Centralia Coal company, near here, have won their strike for better working conditions.

UNION CIGAR MAKERS WIN NOTABLE VICTORY

Chicago, Feb. 17.—In a circular issued to local unions, President Perkins of the Cigar Makers' International union declares that "the international union and the local unions have won a notable and far reaching victory." The decision of Justice Andrews of Syracuse, N. Y., in the case of Justin Seubert, Inc., cigar manufacturers, against the Cigar Makers' union, its officers and other trade unionists.

The firm was backed by the Anti-Boycott association and sued for a permanent injunction. The suit was brought on the ground that the union was engaged in a conspiracy, that it restrained trade and commerce and that the strike was illegal and that the boycott was unlawful.

The court upheld the union in every instance except the secondary boycott. This will be appealed by the cigar makers.

"Laborers may strike against their employers and refuse to purchase goods for any reason or for no reason," said Justice Andrews. "Unless their object is to injure individuals, unless individuals may agree to and may hold them. Peaceful persuasion of prospective dealers or customers not to buy the employer's goods from him or in the market. Unions may discipline members who violate these rules."

The claim of the Seubert concern that the agreement of 10,000 manufacturers to use the union label is a combination in restraint of trade, was answered in full by Justice Andrews:

"The agreement to use such a label is given to the unions by statute. The very purpose of this authorized use is to encourage the purchase of goods which union labor goods exposed for sale are made by union labor."

The court held that the secondary boycott is illegal and appointed a referee to assess damages. The decision of the association will be appealed, even though according to President Perkins, the local unions have won a notable victory. The decision will be appealed, even though, according to President Perkins, the local unions have won a notable victory. The decision will be appealed, even though, according to President Perkins, the local unions have won a notable victory.

"All things considered," continues President Perkins, "the decision is favorable to the international union and the local unions and favorable to the boycott. The Anti-Boycott association is dead. Its attempt to use the power of the courts to crush the secondary boycott has failed and will expire the case.

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